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NEW JERSEY BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

By:

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Calvin Morris, D.C. License No. MC1455 **Administrative Action** 

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE CHIROPRACTIC IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (hereinafter "the Board") based upon receipt of information that Dr. Morris (hereinafter "Respondent") had been associated with an individual named John Groff, who was subsequently indicted after his association with Respondent for staging false motor vehicle accidents for the purpose of defrauding insurance companies. In addition, twenty-nine other individuals who had received chiropractic care from Respondent's practice were also indicted for participation in the fraudulent scheme, which involved their receipt of unnecessary chiropractic care based on fraudulent injuries.

Neither Respondent, nor any of his employees have been the subject of criminal charges in connection with the Indictments. Respondent denies any knowledge of, and participation in Mr. Groff's criminal activities or any fraudulent accident scheme.

On November 21, 2002, Respondent appeared, together with counsel, Nicholas C. Harbist, Esq., at an investigative inquiry held by the Board into the matter. Subsequently, on June 19, 2003, the former

office manager of Respondent's practice, L.F., appeared and gave testimony at an investigative inquiry of the Board represented by counsel, Timothy S. Susanin, Esq.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the relevant patient records and the testimony of Respondent and his former office manager at the investigative inquiries, it appears to the Board at this juncture that Respondent engaged in professional misconduct by compensating Mr. John Groff for the referral of patients to his practice, in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44E-2.6; that Respondent demonstrated repeated negligence by his failure to adequately supervise and monitor the care being rendered to patients in his practice, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d); and that Respondent failed to create and maintain an adequate patient record for patient M.M., in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:44E-2.2. These facts establish bases for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(d),(e), and (h).

Respondent, who holds license number 1455, represents that he is presently fifty-nine years old and has been engaged in the private practice of chiropractic since 1975, with primary offices in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Respondent has no history of disciplinary action in any jurisdiction. Respondent further represents that since in or about 1995, he has not been actively practicing chiropractic on a full-time basis because he is partially disabled, and that due to his age and health, and because he has ceased to practice chiropractic in New Jersey, he desires to amicably settle this matter by permanently retiring from the practice of chiropractic in New Jersey. He represents that he will not seek to return to the practice in the future and agrees to make certain financial payments as set forth below.

The Board has considered the above representations of Respondent in addition to the entire record before it in this matter. It appearing that Respondent desires to permanently retire from the practice of chiropractic in the State of New Jersey and to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and without any admission of liability; and the Board being satisfied that the within order is adequately protective of the health, welfare and safety of the public; and for good cause shown:

1. Effective immediately, Respondent Calvin Morris, D.C. agrees to permanently retire from the practice of chiropractic with prejudice to reinstatement of his license in the State of New Jersey, and shall not engage in the practice of chiropractic in this State. Respondent will assure delivery of his license

and biennial registration to the Board within ten (10) days of the issuance of this Order and shall not thereafter seek its reinstatement.

- 2. Respondent shall assure the orderly transfer of all New Jersey patients and the availability to them of their patient records, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:44E-2.2(g).
- 3. Respondent is hereby assessed the costs to the State of the investigation in this matter in the amount of \$5,798.00. Payment for the costs shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and submitted to the Board no later than twenty-one days from the entry of this Consent Order. Payment shall be sent to: Kevin B. Earle, Executive Director, Board of Chiropractic Examiners, at 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor, Newark, New Jersey 07101.
- 4. Failure to comply with any provisions of this Order or remit any and all payments required by this Order will result in the filing of a certificate of debt and may result in subsequent disciplinary proceedings for failure to comply with an Order of the Board.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS

By:

Thomas Senatore, D.C., Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to other this Order.

Calvin Morris, D.C

I hereby agree to the form and

entry of this order.

Nicholas C. Harbist, Esq. Attorney for Respondent